

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OFA-01 DLOS-04 IO-10 /089 W

----- 092700

R 021830Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9188

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 0027

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, CI, BL, PE

SUBJECT: BOLIVIA'S OUTLET TO THE SEA

1. PRESIDENT BANZER TOOK ME ASIDE ON JANUARY 1 AT THE TRADITIONAL NEW YORK'S DAY CEREMONY WITH THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO TALK WITH ME PRIVATELY ABOUT BOLIVIA'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AN OUTLET TO THE SEA. HE SAID THAT MATTERS WERE PRECEEDING JUST ABOUT AS HE HAD EXPLAINED TO ME A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO. WHILE SEVERAL IMPORTANT ASPECTS WILL HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED CAREFULLY WITH CHILE, NONETHELESS THE CHILEAN RESPONSE IS VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND FORMS THE BASIS FOR DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS WHICH SHOULD LEAD TO A SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE BALL IS NOW IN PERU'S COURT. HE VOLUNTEERED HIS OPINION THAT NO COUNTRY SHOULD APPLY OVERT OR AGGRESSIVE PRESSURE ON PERU TO ACCEPT THE CREATION OF THE CORRIDOR FROM FORMER PERUVIAN TERRITRY. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT ANY OVERTURE TO PERU SHOULD BE LOW KEY ("MUY SUAVE").

2. PRESIDENT BANZER TOLD ME THAT THE GOB HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION CONFIRMING THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS MEDDLING IN THIS MATTER AND HAS COUNSELED PERU NOT TO ACCEPT THE BOLIVIA-CHILE ACCORD. BANZER SAID THAT IT IS HIS OPINION THAT THE SOVIETS WISH TO BLOCK WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVE BY NON-COMMUNIST NATIONS
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IN THE SOUTHERN CONE.

3. DURING THE SAME CEREMONY AT THE PRESIDENCY THE PAPAL NUNCIO TOLD ME THAT HE HAD JUST HAD A PRIVATE TALK WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHO TOLD HIM THAT BOLIVIA HAS INFORMATION THAT THE SOVIETS ARE PRESSURING PERU TO REFUS THE CREATION OF THE CORRIDOR

4. ALTHOUGH I HAVE NO IDEA WHEATHER THERE IS ANY VALIDITY TO THIS INFORMATION, WHETHER OR NOT IT IS A PLOY BY THE BOLIVIANS TO ELICIT SUPPORT FOR PERU TO COME THROUGH, I AM CONVINCED THAT BOLIVIANS COULD WELL BELIEVE THIS STORY. I NOTE THAT THE PRESIDENT DID OFFER COUNSEL THAT ANY OVERTURE SHOULD BE LOW KEY WITH REGARD TO PERU. I WONDER NOW IF THIS STORY DOES NOT PROVIDE US WITH ANOTHER REASON TO MAKE A FRMAL BUT LOW-KEY PRESENTATION TO THE GOP. IF SO, PERHAPS THE DEPARTMENT WILL AUTHORIZE THAT THE POINTS MADE BY AMBASSADOR DEAN REPORTED IN PARA 5 OF LIMA'S 10662 BE REPEATED FORMALLY TO THE APPROPRIATE PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, BUT WITH A MORE POSITIVE TONE ABOUT OUR FUTURE SUPPORT.

5. I MYSELF HAVE KNOWN JULIO SANJINES FOR A LONG TIME AND HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED HIM TO BE A VERY INTERESTING BOLIVIAN, WELL WORTH CULTIVATING FOR HIS INDEPENDENT OPINIONS AND VIEWS. IN THE PRESENT SITUATION HE DOES NOT RFLECT PRESENT GOB POLICIES OR POSITIONS AS SET FORTH IN STATEMENTS TO ME BY PRESIDENT BANZER AND OTHER GOB OFFICIALS ACTING ON HIS INSTRUCTIONS. HIS VIEW THAT PERU SHOULD NOT BE "PRESSED" (LIMA 10681) IS NOT IN ACCORD WITH THE CAPRILES DEMARCHE TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS. NOR IS HIS VIEW THAT PERU SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE FOR TWO OR THREE MONTHS IN ACCORD WITH REMARKS MADE TO ME BY FOREIGN MINISTRY SUBSECRETARY OSTRIA ON DECEMBER 31 THAT BOLIVIA WILL NOT WAIT VERY LONG FOR A PERUVIAN REPLY.

6. THE REMARKS OF CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIWY BERSTEIN REPORTED IN SANTIAGO 81'0 ARE INTERESTING BUT I WOULD LIKE TO REPEAT THAT NEITHER THE GOB NOR THIS EMBASSY HAS ADVOCATED US PARTICIPATION AS A FOURTH PARTY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

7. THIS MATTER, AS FAR AS WE HERE IN LA PAZ ARE CONCERNED, IS NOT A PAROCHIAL ONE OF SUPPORTING BOLIVIA'S REQUEST FOR AN OUTLET TO THE SEA BUT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE USG TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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REDUCTION OF LONG-STANDING TENSIONS BETWEEN CHILE AND PERU WHIK H HAVE ARISEN AT TIMES TO SERIOUS LEVELS AND HAVE LED IN PART TO A LWYGE ARMS BUILD-UP IN THE AREA.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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